

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 SY-10

A-01 DRC-01 /161 W

----- 078793

O 091225Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7323

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2421

ADDIS FOR ASST SECY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: BSO TERRORIST TRIAL

1. DEPARTING BRITISH AMBASSADOR ETHERINGTON-SMITH TELLS
ME HE TOOK ADVANTAGE FAREWELL CALL ON ACTING FONMIN
MUSA NOV 8 TO INQUIRE ON PERSONAL BASIS RE STATUS
TERRORIST TRIAL AND EXPRESS HOPE JUSTICE WOULD BE DONE.
MUSA INDICATED TO HIM, AS HE HAD TO ME (KHARTOUM 2387),
THAT MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY MIGHT BE POSTPONED BEYOND
NOV 13 THOUGH TRIAL WOULD IN DUE COURSE BE HELD.

ETHERINGTON-SMITH ASKED WHETHER POSTPONEMENT INQUIRY
MIGHT NOT DISTURB AMERICANS, TO WHICH MUSA REJOINED THAT
AMERICANS "UNDERSTAND OUR PROBLEMS". I THANKED ETHERINGTON-
SMITH FOR HIS INITIATIVE ON MATTER AND SAID WE HAD, OF COURSE,
CONTINUED MAKE PLAIN TO GOS THAT WE ATTACH GREAT
IMPORTANCE SEEING SUDANESE JUSTICE DONE PROMPTLY.

2. BELGIAN CHARGE HAS MEANWHILE INFORMED US HE
APPROACHED MFA UNDER INSTRUCTIONS SEEKING CONFIRMA-
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TION AND EXPLANATION RELEASE ACCOMPLICES (KHARTOUM

2318). HE RECEIVED ORAL RESPONSE FROM MFA UNDERSEC ALONG SAME LINES WE DID, I.E., RELEASE GRANTED ON BASIS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. UNDERSEC INDICATED FURTHER POSTPONEMENT MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY A POSSIBILITY, BUT REITERATED AGAIN THAT CRIME WAS "CLEAR" AND TRIAL WOULD BE HELD.

3. EMB ATTORNEY INFORMS US MAGISTRATE CURRENTLY EXPECTS INQUIRY TO BE HELD NOV 13, BUT DEFENSE MAY REQUEST POSTPONEMENT ON GROUND NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS (INCLUDING BARASS PRES MIRGHANI AL-NASRI) STILL IMPRISONED. HOWEVER, ATTORNEY AND WE AGREE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION (CEASEFIRE, RESUMPTION US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, FRENETH DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY, ETC.) IS FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR GOS TO PROCEED. ATTORNEY SAID PREVIOUSLY REPORTED LEGAL EFFORT TO RELEASE THE EIGHT MURDERS HAS BECOME "STILLBORN". HE ALSO SAID SUDANESE LEGAL PROFESSION HAD COMPLAINED THAT PALESTINIANS HAD BEEN PERMITTED CREATE POLITICAL DISRUPTION (CHEERS, ETC.) AT LAST SESSION AND BEEN ASSURED IT WOULD NOT RECUR.

4. EMB MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO OBSERVE MAGISTERIAL SESSION ON DISCREET BASIS AS IN PAST.

BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, EXTREMISTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KHARTO02421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731144/aaaabglm.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <23-Oct-2001 by willialc, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <29-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BSO TERRORIST TRIAL
TAGS: PINS, SU, US, UK, BE, BSO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005